General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2013

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/68/427)]

68/85. Comprehensive review of special political missions

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 67/123 of 18 December 2012 on the comprehensive review of special political missions,

Reaffirming its commitment to respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,

Recalling the primary role of the United Nations and the respective roles and authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter,

Encouraging sustained exchanges of information, in an appropriate manner, among the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat, on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions,

Reaffirming the principles of impartiality, consent of the parties, national ownership and national responsibility, and stressing the significance of the views of and dialogue with countries hosting special political missions,

Recalling the relevant reports on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions,[1] which addressed the financial and administrative arrangements pertaining to such missions, recognizing that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

Stressing the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the pacific settlement of disputes, including mediation, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, for the maintenance of international peace and security,

[1] A/66/340 and A/66/7/Add.21.

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Acknowledging the significant increase in the number and complexity of special political missions over the past several decades,

Recognizing the role of the special political mission as a flexible tool for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing also the need for system-wide coherence between special political missions and the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of close cooperation between special political missions and United Nations country teams for maintaining sustainable peace, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Recognizing further the need for special political missions to operate under clear, credible and achievable mandates, including through the articulation of their goals and purposes, and the need to review their progress as stipulated in their respective mandates,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions submitted pursuant to resolution 67/123;[2]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold regular, inclusive and interactive dialogue on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions in order to promote closer collaboration with Member States;

3. *Respects* the purview of the mandate of special political missions, as stipulated in the respective relevant resolutions, recognizes the specificity of each mandate of such missions, and emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in discussing the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards ensuring transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender participation, expertise and effectiveness in respect of all special political missions;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of special political missions" and to consider the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General under that item.

65th plenary meeting
11 December 2013

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[2] A/68/223.